

Georgia Department of Community Health Stimulus Funding: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the total amount of Medicaid dollars that Georgia will receive?

To see the estimated total amount of money based on estimated Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) projections, [click here](#). This document was published by a national organization, Federal Funds Information for States in February 2009.

What is FMAP?

FMAP is an acronym for Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The FMAP is that portion of expenditures reimbursed by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services, an organization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The FMAP is state specific and is determined annually by a formula that compares the State's average per capita income level with the national income average. States with a higher per capita income level are reimbursed a smaller share of their costs. By law, the FMAP cannot be lower than 50 percent or higher than 83 percent.

What is the schedule to disperse funds?

The federal government does not have a schedule to disperse Medicaid funds to states. Enhanced FMAP is earned as we pay for Medicaid benefits. For example the state Medicaid agency is reimbursed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicaid expenditures. The Stimulus package has increased reimbursement rates that states will receive. As states spend Medicaid dollars, the federal government will now reimburse them at a higher rate. We have claimed in a lump sum the amount of FMAP earned through February 25, 2009, and since then, we make the claim for the enhanced payments daily.

Can communities still submit projects for funding consideration?

Stakeholders should monitor the appropriate federal Web sites in their area of interest to ensure they do not miss any grant or funding opportunities. The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) will also post funding opportunities pertinent to Medicaid or other DCH-related program areas on its Web site as programs are developed.

How much has Georgia received to-date?

The first installment of enhanced Medicaid FMAP funds totaled \$339.6 million. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), an organization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has made a grant of \$339.6 million available to the state for the October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 time period and an additional grant of \$181.6 million for the time period of April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009. The grant level is based on an estimate of Medicaid expenditures for the relevant time period; however, the state does not receive the additional federal funding until it makes a claim against the grant amount. Claims are based on actual Medicaid expenditures. Through March 27, 2009, Georgia has claimed \$304.8 million in enhanced FMAP.

If I want to purchase an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, how do I get reimbursed via the funds available in the ARRA?

Per federal guidance, DCH will work with CMS to establish the criteria for reimbursement. DCH will post guidance on how to qualify for the EHR reimbursement and/or loan program within the next 60 days.

How do I apply for ARRA/Stimulus funding?

Interested parties should monitor the appropriate federal and state agency Web sites in their area of interest to ensure they do not miss any grant or funding opportunities. Examples of these sites may include but are not limited to recovery.gov and grants.gov. DCH will also post funding opportunities pertinent to Medicaid or other DCH-related program areas on its Web site as programs are developed.